

Mary J. Cooper House  
Westmont Neighborhood  
204-06 Erie Street  
Johnstown  
Cambria County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5706

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Mary J. Cooper House

HABS No. PA-5706

Location: 204-06 Erie Street, Westmont, Johnstown, Cambria County, Pa.

Description: This rambling wood-framed house clad with horizontal wood with a multi-gabled roof and a large wrap-around porch is a two-and-a-half-story duplex that was originally a single-family home. There is elaborate ornamental detailing in the narrow pediment over the entrance to the porch and repeated above that on the second floor. The first-floor porch has a hipped roof which rests on turned, slender, bracketed columns and an enclosed railing covered with fishscale shingles. A small balcony at the second floor has turned posts supporting a shed roof.

History: Mary J. Cooper, a teacher, acquired this property from the Westmont Land and Improvement Company, Ltd., for \$780 on June 27, 1893. By 1895, a house was on her property that had an assessed value of \$2000. In 1904 Edwin S. Greer bought the undivided half of this property. In 1910, Cooper and Greer sold the house to Daniel Coolidge. The house and lots were assessed for \$3,800 in 1911.

Coolidge became president of Lorain Steel Company in the 1890s. Before moving to Westmont, he was living in Johnstown and had married a local girl, Lillian Rosensteel. He became a member of the prestigious Grove Bowling Club in 1897. Coolidge was originally from Philadelphia, and, according to Mrs. Barbara Rohrabach, the current owner of the property, Coolidge was President Calvin Coolidge's nephew. The Coolidges never had children. By 1913, they had added the whole western side of the house, making it a spacious place for entertainment. A ballroom was on the first floor of the addition.

Sources:

Deed Vol. 95, p. 3; Vol. 161, p. 654; Vol. 174, p. 84; Vol. 214, p. 217; Vol. 229, p. 192; Vol. 339, p. 280; Vol. 533, p. 303; Vol. 686, p. 195; Vol. 683, p. 504; Vol. 1077, p. 696; and Vol. 1178, p. 940. Cambria County Registry of Deeds, Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

Interview with Mrs. Barbara C. Rohrabach on June 30 and August 21, 1988.

Johnstown City Directories. 1907-08, 1911-12.

Porter, Bessie Glenn. "A History of Moxham"

Westmont Borough Tax assessment records for 1895-1911. Cambria County Courthouse, Ebensburg, Pa.

Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP). An overview of history of the city (HABS No. PA-5669) and an overview of the neighborhood of Westmont (HABS No. PA-5671) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in the downtown and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by Cheryl Powell in August 1988 under the direction of Alison K. Hoagland, HABS historian, and Kim E. Wallace, the supervisory historian of the project. Powell's and other project historians' work was published as *The Character of a Steel Mill City: Four Historic*

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Neighborhoods of Johnstown, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1989), edited by Kim E. Wallace. Illustrations in the publication include large format photographs taken by HAER photographer Jet Lowe and 35 mm photographs taken by the project historians.